



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 72 No. 3

March 2008

Two exciting Unit meetings on PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES in March and April!

March Unit meetings: We will view a 20-minute, short version of a documentary film called “Iraq for Sale” and discuss the privatization of military and reconstructive services in Iraq. The film was made by Robert Greenwald using whistleblower testimony, firsthand accounts, financial records and classified documents to demonstrate greed, corruption and incompetence among private contractors in Iraq.

April Unit meetings: We are going to try a new format – a discussion of the book, “*You Don’t Always Get What You Pay For: The Economics of Privatization*” by Elliott D. Sclar. Members can buy it on-line or at a store, borrow the one copy that the City Library has, borrow a copy from Beryl Flom (858-459-4406 or edflom@sbcglobal.net), or read a summary of it which will be distributed to those attending the March Units. Please don’t come to the April Unit meeting cold – we will assume you are familiar with the book.

April 24 “Lunch with League” At this timely luncheon meeting, speakers will update members and the public on Mayor Jerry Sanders’ plan to outsource or privatize the work of several city departments.

Did you miss the February 2nd Redistricting Petition Training?

Well, don’t worry. On Saturday, March 15, there will be another one that will focus on the practical ideas needed to be a skilled signature-gatherer for the California **Voters FIRST** initiative. This time we will have attendees from the League along with Common Cause and AARP members. These are the three organizations (many of you, members of all three) who came together to create the California **Voters FIRST** initiative and are spearheading the drive to gather one million signatures! So I hope to see many of you at the:

Redistricting Training Meeting

Saturday, March 15

12 noon to 2 pm (a light lunch will be served)

Mission Valley Library

2123 Fenton Parkway, near IKEA

Questions?

Contact Jeanne Brown at (619) 857-1807 or

jbrown@commoncause.org



Mark Your Calendar for Events Coming Up!

March 20 “Lunch with League”

California Secy. of State Debra Bowen.
See flyer in this Voter.

April 24 “Lunch with League” -

Privatization of City Services--- What’s
in Store for San Diego?
Watch for new flyer to come.

League of Women Voters**Nov. 2007– June 2008 Board of Directors**

President	Norma Damashek
Public Policy	
Treasurer	Christine Ahalt
Secretary	Sharon Allen
VP/Administration	Jeanne Brown
VP/Membership	Peggy Finch & Peg Bates
VP/Program	Beryl Flom & Shirley Larson
VP/Voter Service	Kathleen MacLeod
Education	Ruberta Castro
Int'l Relations	Anne Hoiberg & Rebecca Booth
Voter Editor	Faye Rose
Unit Coordinator	Jody Tadder

San Diego Voter

Admin. Assistant Genoveva Martinez
 Flexible hours — (call ahead, please)
 Phone: (858) 483-8696 FAX: (858) 483-8396

Email: lwwsd@san.rr.com

Website: www.lwvsandiego.org

SmartVoter: www.smartvoter.org

March 2008 Volume 72, No. 3

San Diego Voter is published monthly except
 June, July and December

Subscription: \$26 per year

Published at

League of Women Voters of San Diego
 4901 Morena Blvd., Building 100, Suite 104,
 San Diego, CA 92117.

Nominations?

The Nominating Committee is meeting now. If you have a suggestion for Board members or if you would like to volunteer for a gratifying job, please contact me.

--- Paula Hurst, 858-292-8214

FYI, the Annual Meeting date has been changed to Saturday, May 31.

Letter from the President

It's easy to describe what the overriding goal of the League of Women Voters is: To **IMPROVE OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT**. But what do you say when someone asks the question, How does the LWV go about promoting good government? The answer is: **WE ADVOCATE! WE EDUCATE! WE REFORM! WE EMPOWER!**

Over the coming months we will look at the various ways we give meaning to these words. Starting with WE ADVOCATE, here is the League's Letter to the Editor published by the Union-Tribune on February 16 concerning proposed changes to the SD City Charter:

"On behalf of the League of Women Voters of San Diego, which I serve as president, I would like to address the 'Council relapse' editorial. No major city across the nation gives its mayor the power to appoint the city's chief financial monitor, the city auditor. For good reason. A city auditor has the duty to scrutinize and report on the mayor's financial bookkeeping and performance. If the city auditor isn't fully independent of the person whose books are being audited (the mayor) it's not just bad public policy, it's a standing invitation to corruption. In San Diego, it's also a flagrant disregard for our city's crying need for governmental integrity, honesty and true reform.

"All major cities and auditing associations agree the city auditor should be either elected by the public or appointed by the city's legislative body, the City Council. There may be numerous well-justified complaints about City Council members, but in this case the only right course of action is 'to shut the mayor out of the process entirely.' The City Council holds public hearings and makes the laws. The mayor manages city departments and finances and creates the city budget. The city auditor keeps close tabs on how the mayor manages the city's books and lets the public know. That is what checks and balances are all about.

"Why have the Union-Tribune and others joined the mayor in relentlessly pushing for a mayor-appointed city auditor? Control and power? Confusion between the democratic requirements of city government and authoritarian standards of privately held corporations? What is clear is that a mayor-selected city auditor is bad news for the public. Until the day that San Diego voters get the chance to decide for themselves whether they want to elect a city auditor answerable directly to the people, we must insist on a strict hands-off, arms-length policy between the mayor and the city auditor."

(signed) NORMA DAMASHEK

And as an example of WE EDUCATE, please take note of the enclosed flyer for the March 20 "Lunch with League" to hear Secretary of State Debra Bowen speak on Restoring Integrity to California's Electoral System. We are delighted to bring this high-ranking State official to the people of San Diego during this unusual year of three major Statewide elections. Be sure to send in your reservation and come prepared with your questions.

--- Norma Damashek, President
ndamashek@ucsd.edu / 858 459-8751

Membership

**We now have 487 members.
Please welcome these new members!**

NAME	ZIP
Pauline Carl	92037
Mary Chipps	92117
Anna Cornett	92103
Joyce Cutler-Shaw	92037
Bernard Eggertsen	92103
Marti Emerald	92124
Anajean Kopkowski	92111
Joan Stern	92064
Isabelle Wasserman	92037
Jane Uhle	92167

Interested in a fulfilling part-time Job?

The Nominating Committee is looking for a few more members to serve on the Board. We invite you to be a part of our fun leadership group! Our openings at the moment are for a Director of Social Policy, Director of Development and Voter Editor. If you'd like more information on these jobs, please call Paula Hurst, chair of the Nominating Committee, 858-292-8214.

Were you a member in another League?

We want to have a record of any years you may have been in other Leagues. We are interested in finding 40-Year and 50-Year members so that we can honor you in the future. 50-Year (Life) members pay no more dues. If you belonged to another League in another city, contact Dee Sacks, 619-226-2252.

Take Advantage of Smart Voter, Easy Voter Guide, Pros & Cons, Election Extra! Here's how to do it!

With just a few months until the June 3 election, LWV reminds you to share our on-line nonpartisan election resources with your friends and acquaintances.

The [Smart Voter](#) website provides comprehensive online information for the election, including a helpful polling place look-up feature and personalized ballot information when you enter your address.

The [Easy Voter Guide](#) is a quick, easy-to-read guide to the candidates and ballot measures, published in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean. The website lets you view the latest Propositions, access online-only versions in Tagalog and Japanese, and print your own *Easy Voter Guide*.

The [Pros & Cons](#) provides a more detailed look at the Statewide measures and is distributed at pro-con presentations on the ballot measures. If you are interested in a presentation for your group, [contact](#) the League office with your request.

The [Election Extra](#), produced by our League here in San Diego, contains an analysis of the issues on our local ballot, both pro and con.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to informed and active public participation in government policy and decision-making. The League engages in education and advocacy on behalf of the public interest and welcomes full participation in its activities by all members of the public.

March Unit Meetings: Program Planning

Friday, Mar. 7 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Note New Unit! Southeast Unit	Home of Gwendolyn Pamplin 5851 Skyline Drive San Diego, CA 92114 619-849-0967	Vergie Wright (619) 264-6735
Monday, Mar. 10 9:30 - 11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	Home of Irene Dunny 17819 Sunwalk Court San Diego, CA 92127	Betty Weinberger (858) 674-0909 Irene Dunny (858) 613-0335
Monday, Mar. 10 5:30 – 7:30 PM	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108 (near IKEA & Costco)	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353 Karen Beeson (619) 475-8236
Tuesday, Mar. 11 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, Mar. 11 1:00 – 3:00 PM	University City	North University City Community Library, off Nobel at Judicial Drive	Margaret Stevenson (619) 299-0036
Wednesday, Mar. 12 9:30 – 11:30 AM	North Shores/ Point Loma	Home of Gloria Christman 3279 Atari Court San Diego, CA 92117 858-273-0590	Betty Carlson (619) 276-3223 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wednesday, Mar. 12 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Home of Paula Hurst 4716 Valdina Way San Diego, CA 92124 858-292-8214	Carole Porter (858) 279-5474
Thursday, Mar. 13 9:30 – 11:30 AM	East San Diego	College - Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road San Diego, CA 92115	Barbara Evje (619)-462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — March

March			
3/4	Tue.	6:00p.m.	Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
3/6	Thurs.	9:30 a.m.	Unit Council, Jody Tadder's Home, 3276 Old Kettle Road., 92111, 858-277-4576
3/7	Fri.	10:30 a.m.	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
3/7	Fri.	12:15p.m.	Program Committee Meeting, Shirley Larson's Home, 5086 Constitution Road, 92117, 858-272-9752
3/7– 13			UNITS - Privatization of the Military; DVD "IRAQ FOR SALE"
3/19	Wed.	10.00 a.m.	Membership Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
3/19	Wed.	12:30pm	Education Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office
3/20	Thur.	11:30 a.m.	"Lunch with League": Secy. Of State Debra Bowen, Tom Ham's Lighthouse
3/23	Sun.		<i>Easter</i>
3/28	Fri.	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy Meeting, LWVSD Office
3/28	Fri.	12:00 noon	Program Committee Meeting, LWVSD Office

LWV welcomes
Secretary of State of California
Debra Bowen

speaking on

**“Restoring Integrity to
California’s Electoral System”**

A timely and thought-provoking “Lunch with League”

Thursday, March 20, 2008

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Tom Ham’s Lighthouse Restaurant
Harbor Island**

Cost:

\$25 LWV members; \$30 non-members

Directions to Tom Ham’s:

Harbor Dr. to the airport; turn left at Harbor Island Dr.; proceed two short blocks and veer right.
Continue past hotels and marinas to the end of the island.
Parking is free.

Lunch with League:

“Restoring Integrity to California’s Electoral System”

Reservations must be received by March 14.

Mail check to LWVSD, 4901 Morena Blvd., # 104, San Diego 92117.

Questions: 858-483-8696

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Guest(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed: \$ _____ (\$25 LWV members) _____ (\$30 non-members) \$ Donation: _____



SHERRY BLOOM, GRI, CRS
 Broker Associate
 Previews Property Specialist
 Certified Relocation Specialist

(858) 459-3851 EXT 133 BUS., (858) 454-0800 FAX
 (800) 229-8898 TOLL FREE, (858) 459-7598 HOME
 (619) 200-0300 CELLULAR

COLDWELL BANKER  

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE
 930 Prospect Street
 La Jolla, CA 92037-4144
 EMail Sherry@BloomSells.com

www.BloomSells.com

Owned And Operated
By NRT Incorporated.

LWVSD Diversity Policy

The LWVSD, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there should be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League of Women Voters on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. LWVSD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWVSD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. LWVSD affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its Board, staff and programs.

Copyright © 2008 by The League of Women Voters of San Diego. No part of this newsletter may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission. For information, address San Diego Voter Editor, The League of Women Voters of San Diego, 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg. 100, Suite 104, San Diego, CA 92117



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO
 4901 MORENA BLVD.
 BLDG. 100, SUITE 104
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92117

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 San Diego, CA
 Permit No. 422

TIME DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED